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Part II

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# **PRESS AND INFORMATION IN THE U.S.**

August 7—September 3, 1988

**PRESS AND INFORMATION IN THE U.S.**

**A USIA 28-Day Single Country Project for Afghanistan**

**August 7 - September 3, 1988**

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**PROGRAM SUMMARY**

A twenty-eight day program has been designed to expose you to issues related to the role of the press in a free society. The program will provide you with an in-depth look at journalism in the United States, from major daily newspapers and national news magazines to small town newspapers. A second focus will be on U.S. perceptions of and response to the changing political situation in Afghanistan.

The program will open in Washington, D.C., (August 8 to August 13) with a series of meetings designed to introduce you to American culture; to the political and social context in which journalists operate in the U.S.; and to U.S. perceptions of and responses to the war in Afghanistan. There will be a session at the Center for Foreign Journalists, an opportunity to attend a press briefing, and meetings with local journalists. A briefing on Afghanistan is planned at the Department of State, and there will be a roundtable session on Capitol Hill. The week in Washington will end with a Saturday morning cruise down the Potomac River to Mount Vernon, George Washington's home.

Boston, Massachusetts, follows (August 14-August 17) with a program segment on journalism and foreign affairs. There will be appointments with editors of major newspapers to discuss press coverage of international events and the sources of information used in preparing these stories. Issues of press objectivity and responsibility will be raised. Scholars at Boston University School of Communication will provide an academic perspective on these issues. The program will include home hospitality.

The third program segment in Denver, Colorado, (August 19 to August 23) will focus on election issues and the role of the press. You will have an overview of current election issues and the impact of the media on political campaigns, and will meet with public relations staff of political candidates. The program also will include a visit to the Estes Park area for sightseeing and professional meetings with the editor of the local newspaper. Home hospitality will be arranged.

You will return to the east coast for a program on the national media in New York, New York (August 25 to August 29). There will be meetings with editors, journalists, and media analysts at the major newspapers, news magazines, and wire services. A roundtable session on the national media will be arranged by Freedom House, an organization that has assisted journalists covering the war in Afghanistan. The program will include time for sightseeing.

The fifth program segment in Keene, New Hampshire, (August 30-31) will explore journalism in a small community. A local newspaper, the Keene Sentinel, will sponsor your visit to this area. Discussion with the publisher, editor, and reporters will highlight the role local papers play in a small community.

You will return to Washington, D.C., for the last two days of your professional program, where there will be an opportunity for individual appointments. On the final program day, an evaluation session will be conducted.